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High Dams Endorsed By Fairfax

County Board
Backs Engineers
On Potomac Basin

By Lon Tuck
Staff Reporter

The highly controversial Army Corps of Engineers' plan to build 16 high dams in the Potomac River basin was unanimously endorsed yesterday by the Fairfax Supervisors.

In Metropolitan Washington only Prince Georges County, which will not be directly affected by the series of dams and reservoirs, had previously approved the long-proposed project.

In moving for yesterday's vote, Fairfax Supervisor John Beerman observed that "perhaps other governments will follow suit if we get behind this important enterprise."

One dam would be located at the north tip of Fairfax County at Seneca, on the Potomac near the Loudoun County border.

The 87-foot high Seneca dam would create a reservoir extending 35 miles up the river to Brunswick, Md. Citizens have protested that the reservoir would displace about 460 families from farms and residences in Fairfax, Loudoun, Montgomery and Fred-

erick counties.

The Army Engineers have proposed 15 more dams in the river's basin to provide a long-term solution to the area's future flood control, water-supply, water pollution and recreation needs. The other dams have met with similar citizen opposition.

Conservationists have protested that 30 miles of the 185-mile length of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal would be inundated.

In other business, a request to build high-rise apartments in McLean near the CIA and the George Washington Memorial Parkway was rejected. Citing both the new ban on apartments near the Parkway and a CIA recommendation against the application, the Supervisors turned down the application unanimously.

McLean citizens testified against rezoning of the 11-acre tract at the intersection of Rte. 123 with the main entrance to CIA.

It lies within a half-mile of the intersection of Rte. 123 with the scenic parkway where the controversy-ridden Merrywood estate is located. The ban on apartments within a half-mile of the highway was established in the wake of a long-fought controversy over construction of high-rise apartments at Merrywood.

In a memorandum supporting the application, Attorney Bernard M. Fagelson suggested that the CIA had "hoped that something like this might be done" to provide living quarters for its personnel.

In response, a letter from L. K. White, a deputy director of the CIA, was read saying that "I would like to re-emphasize that we have no requirements for multi-family development nearby." No fears of security dangers to CIA were voiced.

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